

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 209.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, July 7, 1863.

I.. Before a General Court Martial, which convened at the Headquarters, 1st Connecticut Volunteer Artillery, near Fort Richardson, Virginia, April 27, 1863, pursuant to General Orders, No. 30, dated Headquarters, Defences of Alexandria South of the Potomac, near Fort Ward, Virginia, April 21, 1863, and of which Lieutenant Colonel N. L. WHITE, 1st Connecticut Volunteer Artillery, is President, was arraigned and tried—

2d Lieutenant *John W. Stiles*, 34th Massachusetts Volunteers.

CHARGE I.—“Drunkenness on duty.”

*Specification*—“In this; that 2d Lieutenant *John W. Stiles*, Company ‘E,’ 34th Massachusetts Volunteers, was drunk while on guard at Fort Lyon, Virginia, on the night of the 9th of February, and also on the night of the 23d day of March, 1863.”

CHARGE II.—“Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.”

*Specification*—“In this; that 2d Lieutenant *John W. Stiles*, 34th Massachusetts Volunteers, while on fatigue duty, did, with two non-commissioned officers of said Company, visit and drink whiskey at a low hovel, kept by Irish and negro women, thereby degrading himself in the opinion of the men. This at or near Fort Lyon, Virginia, on or about the 2d day of April, 1863.”

To which charges and specifications the accused, 2d Lieutenant *John W. Stiles*, 34th Massachusetts Volunteers, pleaded “Not Guilty.”

#### FINDING.

The Court, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, 2d Lieutenant *John W. Stiles*, 34th Massachusetts Volunteers, as follows:

#### CHARGE I.

Of the *Specification*, “Guilty.”

Of the CHARGE, “Guilty.”

## CHARGE II.

Of the *Specification*, "Guilty, excepting the words 'at a low hovel, kept by Irish and negro women.'"

Of the *CHARGE*, "Guilty."

## SENTENCE.

And the Court does therefore sentence him, 2d Lieutenant *John W. Stiles*, 34th Massachusetts Volunteers, "*To be cashiered.*"

II.—The proceedings of the Court in the above case are disapproved by the Major General Commanding the Department of Washington, and the sentence has been suspended until the pleasure of the President of the United States shall be made known. The disapproval by the officer whose confirmation is made indispensable to the enforcement of the sentence, terminates the proceedings of the Court against the accused. A careful examination of the record does not lead to a concurrence in the opinion of the General Commanding the Department. The proof is clear that the accused was guilty of the charges against him. The President therefore directs that Lieutenant Stiles be dismissed; and he accordingly ceases to be an officer in the service of the United States from the 27th day of June, 1863.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND.

*Assistant Adjutant General.*